



WATER RESOURCE COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting. The Water Resource Coordinating Council (WRCC) met on May 12 in Altoona. The meeting was called to order by Bill Northey, Secretary of Agriculture. Some of the items discussed included:

- State Programs:
 - The Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALS) announced on May 11, that applications for statewide cost share funds were being accepted. Funding from the Water Quality Initiative will pay \$25 per acre to landowners planting cover crops for the first time and \$15 per acre for landowners previously planting cover crops. Other practices eligible for cost-share funding include no-till or strip till (\$10 per acre), or using a nitrification inhibitor (\$3 per acre) when applying fertilizer.
 - The Department of Natural Resources reported that over 80 permits have been issued to municipalities to address point source pollution. This is an increase of 20 permits based on initial estimates.
 - An update on a watershed tour held in Minnesota last year was presented by Evan Del Val and Vanessa Fixmer-Oraiz.
- Federal programs:
 - Conservation Innovative Grant applications are due May 31, 2016. The grants are awarded for projects that have innovative practices or technologies. In 2015, Iowa was awarded seven [grants](#).
 - Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – It was reported that over 800,000 new acres were enrolled in the federal CRP this year and over 128,000 acres were enrolled in Iowa. The total number of acres at the national level was lowered from 30.0 million to 24.0 million in the last federal Farm Bill so some applicants were not approved due to the lower cap.
 - Larry Weber, Iowa Institute of Hydraulic Research (IIHR), University of Iowa, provided an update on the federal Iowa Watershed Approach grant that was awarded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for a statewide watershed improvement program. The grant was awarded to reduce flood risk, improve water quality, increase resilience, provide a collaborative approach, and to develop a program that can be replicated and used by others.

WPAC Update. Clare Lindahl, Director of the Conservation Districts of Iowa, announced that she was the new Chairperson of the Watershed Planning Advisory Council and that the next meeting would be held on July 13.

Measures Subcommittee. Upon adjournment of the WRCC, Dr. John Lawrence, Iowa State University, chaired the Measures Subcommittee.

Additional Information. For additional information, refer to the WRCC [website](#).

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